

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01

PRS-01 /101 W

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R 140930Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECSTATE WASHDC 6229

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4389

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG KU, SA

SUBJECT: GULF PIPELINE TO RED SEA

REF: KUWAIT 0849

1. LONG-TIME MINISTRY OF OIL (MOO) OFFICIAL HAS TOLD
EMBOFF THAT HIS MINISTRY RECENTLY RECEIVED REQUEST FROM
FOREIGN MINISTRY TO STUDY FEASIBILITY OF KUWAIT'S PARTICIPATION
IN OIL PIPELINE THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA TO RED SEA (PRESUMABLY
AT YENBO). KUWAITI IDEA IS THAT PROPOSED PIPELINE WOULD
MOVE OIL FROM UAE, BAHRAIN, QATAR AND KUWAIT TO RED SEA,
FROM WHENCE IT WOULD BE BARGED TO SUMED PIPELINE. ACCORDING
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TO MOO OFFICIAL, PIPELINE LIKELY TO BE ONE OF SUBJECTS

DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE ON PETROCHEMICALS APPARENTLY TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER BY OIL MINISTRY OFFICIALS FROM UAE, BAHRAIN, QATAR AND KUWAIT.

2. OIL MINISTRY SOURCE NOTED THAT POSSIBILITY OF KUWAIT'S SHIPPING OIL ACROSS PENINSULA TO RED SEA WAS RAISED IN 1967, BUT IDEA NEVER LED ANYWHERE BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICS AND UNSETTLED ISSUES WITH SAUDI ARABIA. NOW WITH MUCH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAITI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NO LONGER A COMPLICATION, SOURCE OPINED PIPELINE MIGHT PROVE MORE FEASIBLE. HE ADDED THAT AMERICAN FIRM, SUCH AS BECHTEL, MIGHT BE ASKED TO DO STUDY AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATION AMONG KUWAIT AND LOWER GULF STATES.

3. SENIOR BECHTEL REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 11 THAT OIL MINISTER KAZEMI SHELVED PIPELINE IDEA IN APRIL. BECHTEL HAS HEARD NOTHING FURTHER FROM MOO ON KUWAIT PARTICIPATION IN YENBO PIPELINE. HOWEVER, IDEA OF DIVERSIFYING OUTLETS FOR KUWAITI/GULF STATES OIL HAS OBVIOUS POLITICAL APPEAL, AND MIGHT BE REVIVED.

4. COMMENT: IDEA OF PIPELINE AS ALTERNATIVE TO STRAITS OF HORMUZ RAISED IN KUWAITI PRESS DURING KING KHALED'S VISIT TO KUWAIT IN MARCH AND REPORTED EARLIER (REFTEL), STRIKES US AS POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND NOT MUCH MORE. KUWAITIS FREQUENTLY TRY TO CLOTHE THEIR OWN CONCERNS IN BROADER GULF CONTEXT WHEN THE ONLY INTEREST IS KUWAITI. ANY INFO ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE ON GULF-RED SEA PIPELINE IDEA AND POSSIBLE MEETING ON SUBJECT WOULD BE OF INTEREST HERE. MAESTRONE

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